

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A power management device for use in a power distribution network of a vehicle comprising:

an input; and

a logic unit coupled to the input, wherein when the logic unit determines a presence of an electrical energy at the input the logic unit places the power management device in one of a standby mode and an active mode, the logic unit in communication with a controller operable to communicate with at least one of a plurality of power distribution nodes, the controller operable to set an operational mode in each of the at least one power distribution nodes.

2. (Currently Amended) The power management device of claim 1 wherein the logic unit places the power management [[unit]] device in the standby mode when the logic unit determines the electrical energy is from a secondary power source.

3. (Currently Amended) The power management device of claim 1 wherein the logic unit places the power management [[unit]] device in the active mode when the logic unit determines the electrical energy is from a primary power source.

4. (Currently Amended) The power management device of claim 3 wherein when the power management device is in the active mode, the power management device routes the primary power to an output port, the output port for connection to an other another power management device in the power distribution network.

5. (Original) The power management device of claim 1 wherein the power management device operates at a lower voltage when in the standby mode than when in the active mode.

6. (Currently Amended) The power management device of claim 1 further comprising:
a circuit, coupled between the input and the logic unit, responsive to the electrical energy at the [[first]] input, the circuit for supplying power to the logic unit.
7. (Original) The power management device of claim 1 further comprising a communication unit for receiving an instruction related to an operational mode wherein the power management device is responsive to said instruction.
8. (Original) The power management device of claim 7 wherein the operational mode comprises one of the active mode, the standby mode, a fault detection mode, a fault management mode, a load sequencing mode and a load shed mode.
9. (Currently Amended) The power management device of claim 7 wherein the communication unit is further operable to send a signal indicative of a status of the power management device.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for sequentially starting a plurality of nodes in a power distribution network comprising:
applying a power to a first node of the plurality of nodes;
determining that the power is from a primary power source; and
when the power is a primary power source,
routing the primary power to a second node of the plurality of nodes, and
operating a controller to set an operational mode in each of the nodes.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
[[repeating]] applying the power to each of the plurality of nodes in the power distribution network.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
determining that the power is from a secondary power source; and
waiting in a standby mode when the power is from the secondary power source.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
communicating with at least one of the first and second nodes to set an operating state in the at least one of the first and second nodes.
14. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
communicating with at least one of the first and second nodes to monitor a condition of the at least one of the first and second nodes.
15. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
powering in a sequential fashion a plurality of loads coupled to the plurality of nodes to reduce an instantaneous change in power supplied by the power distribution network.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein [[the]] determining that the power is the primary power further comprises communicating with a power source to determine that the power source is a supplier of the primary power.
17. (Currently Amended) A vehicle arranged and constructed for using a power management distribution network comprising:
a plurality of power distribution nodes;
a conductive infrastructure connecting the power distribution nodes; [[and]]
a plurality of power sources coupled to at least one of the plurality of power distribution nodes, wherein the at least one of the plurality of power distribution nodes determines that a one of the plurality of power sources is supplying a primary power [[source]], and routes the primary power [[source]] to another of the plurality of power distribution nodes; and

a controller operable to communicate with each of the plurality of power distribution nodes, the controller for setting an operational mode in each of the plurality of power distribution nodes.

18. (Currently Amended) The vehicle of claim [[16]] 17 wherein [[a]] at least one of the plurality of power distribution nodes waits in a standby mode when connected to a secondary power source.

19. (Currently Amended) The vehicle of claim [[16]] 17 wherein a one of the plurality of power sources is operable to communicate its [[type]] operational mode to a one of the plurality of power distribution nodes.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The vehicle of claim 19 wherein the operational mode comprises one of an active mode, a standby mode, a fault detection mode, a fault management mode, a load sequencing mode and a load shed mode.